

Stomach Ache

Story By: Andrew Frinkle

Jason had a bad stomach ache. It was the worst feeling ever. Sometimes it felt like pins and needles poking into his belly. Other times it felt like someone was reaching into his stomach, making a fist, and twisting mightily.

The problem was, he wasn't sure what had caused it. He hadn't eaten any bad food he hadn't thought. He didn't think he'd eaten anything really spicy or sour, either. He wasn't even really gassy. There was no telling what had caused it, but he certainly wished it was all over soon.

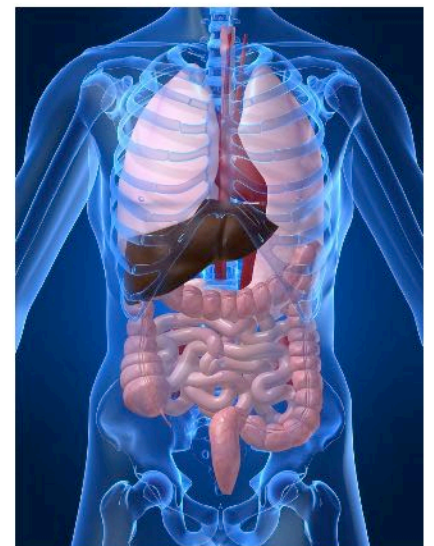
The feeling had come on about lunch time, and it'd lasted all the rest of the school day. Then, on the bus ride home he'd been sweating and gritting his teeth against the pain. Every bump that had jostled him around had been like agony.

When he went home that night, he couldn't even eat dinner, because his stomach hurt so badly. His mother became very concerned. She checked his temperature and found him to have a fever of 102 degrees! Even worse, the pain was getting sharper and seemed to have moved down and to his right side.

Suddenly, a word that he'd never heard before came out: *appendicitis*. Everyone in his family got very serious looks – even his mean, older sister – and he got rushed to the hospital. He didn't know what it was, but the doctor explained it very seriously while his parents listened.

It seemed that part of his digestive tract had gotten very infected and they'd have to remove it surgically before it got too dangerous. That would take the pain away, and he could live without it. He didn't know he could lose body parts and still live, but anything that took away the pain would be great!

His mother held his hand as they gave him a shot that put him to sleep, and when he woke up, groggy and sore, she was waiting for him again. It took a few days, but he quickly felt back to normal. It was so good to have the stomach ache gone finally! All the kids at school wanted to see his scar, too.



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Use the information in the story to answer the questions below.

1. What did Jason first think had caused his stomach ache?
 - A. bad food
 - B. gas
 - C. appendicitis
 - D. spicy food

2. How is Jason's pain NOT described in the story?
 - A. a pounding, throbbing pain in his stomach
 - B. like someone is making a fist and squeezing
 - C. like pins and needles
 - D. A sharp pain on his right side

3. At what point do Jason's parents become concerned?
 - A. when he can't sleep at night
 - B. when he doesn't eat or drink
 - C. when he has a temperature and the pain is lower
 - D. when he starts crying

4. What is the reason for Jason's stomach ache?
 - A. bad food
 - B. gas
 - C. appendicitis
 - D. spicy food

5. How does Jason feel about having had surgery?
 - A. He thinks it's cool.
 - B. He's just happy to feel better.
 - C. He is very sad to have lost his appendix.
 - D. He cries a lot.

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